

## WILLIAM P. JACKSON.

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APRIL 20, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. MIERS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

### REPORT.

[To accompany S. 4223.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4223) granting an increase of pension to William P. Jackson, have examined the same and adopt the Senate report thereon and recommend that the bill do pass.

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[Senate Report No. 1900, Fifty-eighth Congress, second session.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4223) granting an increase of pension to William P. Jackson, have examined the same and report:

This bill proposes to increase from \$24 to \$40 per month the pension of William P. Jackson, late of Company F, Twelfth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

The records of the War Department show that William P. Jackson, the claimant, enlisted June 19, 1861, in Company F, Twelfth Ohio Infantry, and was honorably discharged July 11, 1864. During service he held to rank of private.

He filed and established a claim under the general law and is now a pensioner at \$24 per month for rheumatism and resulting disease of heart, contracted during his military service. He applied for increase on account of his pensioned disabilities January 28, 1903, but his application was rejected October 10, 1903, on the ground that his rate was adequate for the disability resulting from service causes.

Soldier's greatest disability is total blindness, and he claimed this to be the result of his military service, but the Bureau declined to accept his proof as sufficient to establish the service origin of his trouble, for which reason his claim was rejected. This rejection was affirmed on appeal March 23, 1900, by Assistant Secretary Thomas Ryan, and again August 30, 1902, by Assistant Secretary F. L. Campbell.

Careful consideration has been given to the evidence in this case, both in the Bureau of Pensions and in the Department of the Interior, and the conclusion reached, that the evidence fails to prove that claimant's blindness is the result of his military service, is well grounded. His blindness comes from glaucoma, a disease, as is well known, that is quite rapid in its progress, and could not last for twenty years, as is claimed in this case, before producing total blindness.

Claimant is 68 years of age. His last medical examination, dated June 10, 1903, rated him \$24 for his pensioned disabilities, and also showed him to be totally blind in both eyes, a disability ratable under the general law at \$72.

The papers on file in the Bureau show that claimant is without means of support other than his pension, and while your committee do not find that the action of the Pension Bureau in rejecting the claim for total blindness was error, yet they believe that in view of his faithful service of three years, his total disability and great need, a reasonable increase of his pension is proper.

The bill is therefore reported back favorably with a recommendation that it pass.

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